

MRS. HAINES TALKS

She Says the Witnesses for the Contestant Falsified.

HOW SHE LOVED SISTER ALICE

And Never Said Anything to Prejudice Her Father Against Her—Court Room Witnesses.

The proponent in the James H. Brown will contest began her side of the case in the circuit court yesterday. In the morning the crowd was not large, but in the afternoon there was not even standing room. The principal effort of Mrs. Haines, who was on the stand during the entire day, was to controvert the testimony of all the witnesses sworn on behalf of the contestant, Mr. Dunham cited, for the proponent, what would be proved.

What Will Be Shown.

He stated that it would be shown that Brown was strong in mind and body up to the time of his blindness; that his business faculties were unimpaired up to 100 hours before his death. And that he managed transactions involving thousands of dollars, requiring clear judgment, knowledge of business and of men long after it is claimed his mind began to fail after the death of his grand daughter. It would further be shown that in 1847 Mrs. Brown went to Watertown, N. Y., to secure medical treatment; that after her return Dr. Steeley, her attending physician, came here and opened a water cure establishment in Paris township; that Brown was often absent from home and witnesses will be produced who will testify that Dr. Steeley left his bed room at night and visited Mrs. Brown's bed chamber; that Mrs. Brown met Steeley in this city and elsewhere. It will be shown that Brown's suspicions of his wife dated back for forty years and were not of recent growth. Many years before the death of his little daughter, Brown made statements which showed that it was not Margaret which poisoned her father's mind. It will be shown when Dr. Steeley left the Brown farm Mrs. Brown also left, and was gone two weeks, and during this time Mrs. Brown and Dr. Steeley upon more than one occasion met. When Mrs. Brown was away Brown visited his daughter in Grandville and had her come to his home to care for the little children, Alice and the son, and when Margaret arrived she found the house absolutely stripped of clothing. When her father visited Margaret upon this occasion, he spoke of his suspicions of his wife and Dr. Hoyt of Adrian, and then Margaret recalled the incident that she spoke of in her probate court testimony and which she never spoke of until her father first mentioned it.

She Was Very Domestic.

It will be shown that Margaret after her marriage was entirely devoted to her husband, was very domestic and fond of society. She lived in Grandville until her mother's death, and then at the old man's urgent request she came here to care for her father, then an old man and blind; that after Alice's departure for the west Brown urgently requested her to come to the city to live with him, and that her devotion to her own home alone prevented her. For five years she has lived in the city, and it will be shown that she has not been a gossip; that she has not been in the habit of running about the streets and to neighbors.

It will be shown that Margaret had no ill will toward Alice, but was an affectionate sister and always advised that she be given educational advantages which she herself did not enjoy. It will be shown that Margaret was not invited to Alice's wedding, and that although the sisters met only a week before the wedding, Alice did not say a word of her approaching nuptials.

It will be shown that Margaret was with her mother at her death, and had cared for her as a loving daughter before for a week before her death.

It will be shown that H. D. Brown entertained ill will toward his uncle and Margaret because the old man would not loan him money without security. It will also be shown that after Brown's death H. D. Brown visited Margaret and demanded a division of the estate in Alice's behalf, and threatened more family scandals than she ever dreamed of if the money was not forthcoming.

Mrs. Haines Takes the Stand.

When Mr. Dunham concluded, his client, Mrs. Haines, took the stand and testified in her own behalf. She said that she was born in 1832, in New York state, moved to Adrian, Mich., at the age of 7 years, and to Paris, Mich., seven years later. Before coming to Paris her mother went to Watertown, Me., to secure medical treatment at Dr. Steeley's water cure. About fifteen months after her marriage, while living in Grandville, Brown came to her house in a lumber wagon and said that his wife had left him, taking all the household clothing, etc. He said that he could not have Dr. Steeley around the house because Steeley was too intimate with Mrs. Brown and that she declared if Steeley left she would too, and did. At that time Brown said that was not the first time he had trouble with his wife; that in Adrian she had been intimate with Dr. Hoyt. He was convinced the younger children were not his. Brown wanted Margaret and her husband to take some goods and go to his home to take care of the house and Alice. Brown's remarks regarding his wife were addressed to Margaret's husband. Witnesses never told her father of seeing her mother and Dr. Hoyt in a compromising position together, nor to any one else except her husband. At the time of the Adrian episode witness was 10 years old and did not understand the nature of such things. She recalled this instance when her father spoke of Dr. Steeley's relations with her mother.

Made Her Sign a Sworn Statement.

Margaret and her husband went home with the old man at his request taking some clothes with them and found the house stripped of bedding and clothing which her mother had taken away. Alice was then three or four years old and her mother had not left her any clothing. Her father told her that she took all of the wardrobe he would call it up to her. Henry D. Brown's testimony was not true; there was no truth in it, witness said.

Acknowledged He Was Wrong.

A little amusement was afforded the spectators here by Mr. Russell's questioning that some of the questions asked were wrong. Mr. Gleason asked, "How about the writers?" Witness had never seen her father shed tears over Maud Hayden's death. Charles Hayden had to pawn his watch, rings and saddle to get to the funeral from Denver, bought a new silk hat to go to the funeral and her father wore an old felt hat. Charles Hayden offered to lend her father his old silk hat, and her father said, "By God Almighty, my hat is paid for." Her father first complained of a pining sensation in his face about three

years ago. About two months before her father died, Henry D. Brown wanted to borrow \$10,000 on his own note. In consideration that Henry already had \$6,000 of her father's money, witness told Henry that she thought it was too much to ask on a personal note. Henry D. Brown told witness that if she didn't divide the property with Alice that there would be the biggest scandal that ever was, also that since witness had been brought up so poorly that she wouldn't know how to enjoy the money, whereas Alice, having been brought up well and "in society," would know how to use it as it should be. Witness had replied that it was her duty to execute her father's will in the matter, and that her father would rather the lawyer's would have it than Alice. At one time witness bought a dress for Alice and had it made paying for all with her own money.

She Didn't Look Cranky.

Witness had heard the expression "to look cranky," but was not conscious of looking that way. Witness had never been intimate enough with Mrs. Neahr to talk to her about Alice as Mrs. Neahr had testified. Mrs. Neahr's testimony being untrue in every particular. When asked to the testimony of several other people who had been on the stand, witness declared this testimony to be false. The witness said that Mrs. Florence Howe was discharged from her father's house for incompetency. Witness never talked with Mrs. Howe about her sister Alice, and her father had told her the woman would come in her night dress and sit on his bed at night and tell him she wanted to be "an old man's darling," and that he was afraid the woman wanted him to marry her. There never were any key holes in the doors of the parlor of her father's house. The doors were at present in the same condition as during her father's life, and she had never peeped through the key hole because there were none to peek through.

Mr. Russell requested the court to allow the jury to visit the house and examine the doors for themselves.

Want the Jury Believe the Witness?

The court asked Mr. Russell if he didn't think the jury would believe the witness. Mr. Russell thought the jury would, but that since key or no key was what the testimony of Mrs. Howe was based upon, he thought the jury should be allowed to go. The court ruled that it would be unnecessary for the jury to go to present. Mr. Smiley agreed that it was unnecessary for the jury to go to examine key holes, that one of these days the counsel on the other side might ask them to go to Grandville or some other distant place. Witness never talked with Mr. Howe about her father, mother, sister, the will or the various other things to which Mrs. Howe had testified. Witness had never conversed with Alice upon the subject of Dr. Hoyt of Adrian, being her father. She never told Alice that their father was intimate with two aunts and had never heard of it until in the court room. She had never talked with Alice about her parentage. She never said in answer to her mother's invitation to come into the house, "do you think I'll go to a house such as you keep?" Never told her father not to talk to Alice. Never told Alice that she was an unwelcome visitor at the time of her birth. Her father said that he had lost a good many hundred dollars by the elder Mr. Hayden, and that both the Haydens were improvident. When Mrs. Hayden asked her father for money on the last visit home he said that Alice had had all the money she was going to have, but witness herself had said nothing whatever about it. Witness never said anything to Will Brown about Alice's resemblance to Dr. Hoyt, had never even mentioned the subject to him. The subject as to whom Alice resembled had never come up. There was no resemblance whatever in Alice to Dr. Hoyt. Witness never said to Will Brown or anybody else that her mother was not a good woman.

Never Said Alice Was Illegitimate.

She never said that her mother would cry and have hysterics for the sake of getting money out of the old man. One day Alice came into the room where witness was doing the family mending and said, "Pa, I want to talk with you." Her father said, "Well, go ahead," and then Alice pointed to her (witness) and said, "I can't talk with that thing in the room," whereupon witness left the room. She never said anything to any person about Alice's legitimacy, except to her first husband, and had never said anything to prejudice her father or mother against Alice, respecting Alice's part in the will or anything else. Neither did she ever say anything to her father to prejudice him against her mother. When her father would talk before people against Alice and her mother, witness would tell her father not to talk that way, for it didn't sound well, but that he would swear and say that it was the truth, and he would tell the truth let it cut where it would. She first learned that her father intended to make a will when he brought the agreement to her to sign, the agreement that made Mr. Ransom and herself co-executors. Witness had never had much conversation with Mrs. Schlemm, had never talked with her about Alice, or Will Brown; never spoke of any thefts in the house, or letters, or indulged in any of the conversations testified to in the deposition of Mr. Schlemm. In short, the whole testimony of Mrs. Schlemm was false.

Said Everybody Swore Falsely.

In the probate court the witness had been called to the stand by Mr. Smiley who represented Mrs. Hayden's side at that time. She declined to answer the questions put to her, but was compelled by the court. On cross-examination by Mr. Smiley, witness reaffirmed that the statements made by Mrs. Schlemm were untrue, and that Will Brown's testimony in regard to Alice's resemblance to Dr. Hoyt were untrue.

Mr. Russell objected to the form of Mr. Smiley's questions, saying that the witness thought she was swearing that part of the testimony was untrue, whereas the question made it appear that she swore to the falsity of the entire testimony. The objection was overruled by the court. Resuming, Mrs. Haines could not recollect that anything Mrs. Howe said was true; that part of Mrs. Skinner's was true; that Mrs. Crose, Mrs. Hayden, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Bigelow, Mrs. Hannan, Cook, Mr. Skinner, each and every one, had testified to what was false.

Mr. Smiley: "Have you heard any-

body during this trial testify to the truth in every thing?"

Witness: "Not any one that I can think of now."

Witness first heard her father speak of Alice's illegitimacy when she was about 16 years old, Alice being 1 year old at the time. She was married and living in Grandville at the time and her father told of it there before her first husband. She returned home with her father to Paris and staid two or three weeks, during which time her father frequently referred to it. Afterwards her father would speak of it two or three times a year. He would say he thought the mother would do better how many years her father was in the habit of speaking of it. There never was a time when her father didn't visit her and her mother came occasionally. Witness couldn't remember how long a time at any time in her life elapsed that she didn't visit home. Her father and mother were pleasant to each other when she visited them, but she couldn't say whether the relations between her parents and Alice were pleasant or not. For the fifteen years after Alice was married she had witnessed ordinary family jars in her father's house, nothing any more serious. In answer to the question as to whether the father, mother and Alice lived on good terms with each other from 1850 until Alice went west, witness said she couldn't say. When Alice called at her house with Mr. Hayden before her marriage she told Alice Charles Hayden was no gentleman, because he peeped in her back parlor window. Witness never asked anybody to take off their boots on going into her house. Her husband did it of his own free will and accord. Court adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning.

TOO CLEVER WITH THE PEN.

J. D. McGowan Forges Supt. Rickett's Name and Secures a Pass.

On a telegram from Detroit, Detectives Smith and Darr yesterday arrested J. D. McGowan on the charge of forgery.

McGowan presented a letter to Captain Garrett, general ticket agent of the D. & N. at Detroit, written to himself and purporting to be signed by Superintendent Rickett, of the St. Louis & Iron Mountain railroad; saying that he was a contractor and railroad builder. Upon this letter he secured a pass from Detroit to Grand Rapids and return. Arriving here he immediately went into Secretary Sullivan's office, and presented the same letter, asking upon the strength of it a pass to Cadillac and return. Just as he was about to receive the pass the officers arrested him. On his person were found letter heads of several other railroads and other documents to show that the game was not a new one with him. He is a Scotchman about 40 years of age. In the letters he went under the name of W. H. Reed.

BARRICADED THE DOOR.

And threatened to Strike Detective Kennedy with an Ax.

Detective Kennedy had a warrant for the arrest of John Assink yesterday for being drunk. John was found at his home on North Ionia street with two visitors. He was eating his dinner and asked the officers to wait until he was through. Kennedy is nothing if not obliging, so he stepped downstairs and outside and waited John's pleasure. After while he went up again and knocked at the door, John said, "Come in." Detective Kennedy tried the door, but it would not yield. He commanded the inmates to open it and was somewhat surprised to hear a voice tell him that he had no business there and that if he didn't go away he would get his head split open with an ax. The officer peeped through the key hole and saw that John had barricaded the door, and was guarding it with an uplifted ax. Without further hesitation the door was kicked in and John placed under arrest. His friends attempted to interfere, and barely escaped arrest themselves.

Peterson Smuggled Razors.

Deputy United States Marshal Brewster and Detectives Galt and Jakeway went to Holland yesterday, where they arrested Gustave Peterson, a Swede, on the charge of smuggling razors into this country without paying duty. The smuggler is 20 years old. Last fall he went from this side of the water to the old country. When he returned he brought back twenty dozen fine razors with him, packing them in the bottom of his trunk under a lot of books, there by passing them through the custom house unnoticed. He has since been disposing of them at low prices. Customs Surveyor Maynard discovered 181 dozen of the razors and has them in his possession.

Court Notes.

James Brown was arraigned in police court yesterday on the charge of assault and battery. He pleaded not guilty and will have a hearing March 4.

J. B. Thomas, bartender for John Hughes, was up in police court yesterday on the charge of carrying concealed weapons. He said that he carried a gun because he had some trouble a while ago, and was afraid unless he had something to protect himself with. He was released on suspended sentence on payment of costs.

The perjury case against Alexander Hamilton was again postponed. The examination was set for March 8.

The Jury Discharged.

Judge Burlingame excused the superior court jury yesterday with the remark that there had been a great deal of important business transacted by the jury during the past term. Six cases were tried, which, if verdicts had been rendered under the first court, the maximum punishment would have been imprisonment for life. Three were for rape—Sweeney, Norton and Abbott, and three for robbery—Tom Goodin, Jim Goodin and Fred Newberg. All of the criminal assaults were committed upon children under eleven years of age.

The Horses Came Back.

Mrs. Holland, postmistress at the D. G. H. & M. junction, reported to the sheriff yesterday that a team of horses had been stolen from her barn. She heard a noise about her barn at an early hour. Arriving to investigate she

found the barn door open and the animals gone. Deputy sheriff Beaver went out on a wild goose chase to Dayton and when he returned he found that the horses had returned home of their own accord.

Robbed the Old Man's Store.

The little store of S. McGowan, on North Union street, has been burglarized several times lately, causing the old man considerable loss. Night before last several unknown parties broke into the store and stole cigars and tobacco aggregating in value \$16.00. Officers are investigating.

Adjudged Insane.

John Schmidt, an inmate of the Soldiers' home, was adjudged insane yesterday in the probate court. He is 63 years old and is now confined in the county jail. Superintendent Mitchell will take the patient to the Kalamazoo asylum today.

Hattie Staley in Jail.

United States Marshal Clark arrested Hattie Staley in Plainville yesterday for tampering with the United States mail. She was brought to this city and locked up in the county jail.

On Suspicion of Larceny.

Joseph Motzire was arrested yesterday afternoon on suspicion of larceny by Detectives Smith and Dorr, and is now locked up at the county jail.

LAW AND LAWYERS.

United States Court.

JUDGE REVERENS.

Simon Ottenberg et al. vs. Jacob Lustig, assumpsit; jury trial, judgment for plaintiff, \$7,748.08.

D. V. Webster vs. Albert Petrie, State Board of Woodstock vs. Albert Petrie, Samuel F. Bussey et al. vs. Albert Petrie, Exchange National Bank of Palo vs. Albert Petrie, Marshal F. Ayres et al. vs. Albert Petrie, order overruling demurrer with leave to amend within ten days on condition that causes stand for trial at present term.

On motion of George P. Wanty John B. V. Goodrich of Coopersville was admitted to practice.

Circuit Court—Part I.

JUDGE ADAMS.

In the matter of the James H. Brown, deceased, appeal from probate court; on trial.

Probate Court.

JUDGE PERKINS.

Estate of Ebenezer M. Ball, deceased; letters of administration to Willard F. Keeney, and C. Van Cleave Gannon and Myron H. Walker appointed co-administrators on claims.

Estate of John L. Ives, deceased; petition for probate of will filed; hearing March 28.

Estate of Albert E. Dean, deceased; John Burns appointed administrator.

Estate of Aris Slot, Jr., deceased; petition for administration filed; hearing March 28.

Estate of Lorenzo N. Denison, deceased; Geo. R. Wolcott appointed special administrator.

Estate of Jennie Vander Hart, deceased; John Sautter appointed administrator.

Estate of Gregory Cummings, mentally incompetent; letters of guardianship to Frank H. Cummings.

Estate of Amos Rathbone, deceased; executor's annual account filed; hearing Feb. 18.

Estate of Sarah Graves, deceased; administratrix final account allowed.

Estate of Eva A. Steffe, et al., minors; guardians final account filed.

In re John Schmidt, migrant insane; order for admission to asylum at Kalamazoo.

Estate of Katherine M. Gibb, deceased; petition for administrator filed; hearing March 25.

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